

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the proposed district for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the district could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information		For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 129-5049	
District Name(s):	Wiley Court Historic District		
District or Selected Building Date(s):	1934-1936	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post	Open to the Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Main District Streets and/or Routes:	Wiley Court	City: Salem	Zip: 24153
County or Ind. City:	City of Salem		
	USGS Quad(s): Salem		

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: 2.5	Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features/Streetscapes: The eight-house subdivision named Wiley Court, in a residential section of northwest Salem, is an extension of Blair Street. Wiley Court is located between N. Shanks Street and Locust Avenue, on the north side of James Street. The courtyard within the semi-circular arrangement of houses comprises .7 acres of open area with perhaps 10 or 12 mature deciduous trees arranged in two rows running roughly east-west. Each house in Wiley Court is accompanied by a garage/utility building in back, and white picket fencing delineating each backyard.	
Ownership Categories:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal

General District Information	
What were the historical uses of the resources within the proposed district? Examples include: Dwelling, Store, Barn, etc...	
Residential	
What are the current uses? (if other than the historical use)	Residential
Architectural styles or elements of buildings within the proposed district:	Colonial Revival: Cape Cod
Architects, builders, or original owners of buildings within the proposed district:	
Are there any known threats to this district? None known	

General Description of District: (Please describe building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district and a general setting and/or streetscape description.)

Wiley Court, part of the larger Langhorne Place subdivision, is a semi-circular layout of eight very similar, but not identical brick Cape Cod (Colonial Revival-style) houses erected 1934-1935 as a planned group. All of the houses front onto an open area with lush grass and shade trees. A paved alley circles around behind the group of houses, providing access to garages and adjacent parking spaces. The house addresses are numbered sequentially beginning at the southeast.

All of the houses are comprised of a 1 ½-story main block with brick veneer, painted white, a three-bay façade, one semi-exterior end chimney, a side-gable roof and two front dormers clad with dark-gray asphalt architectural shingles, and a small lunette window in the gable end opposite the chimney. All of the houses appear to have had long, rear-facing shed dormers with three windows (e.g., houses 1, 2, 6, and 7), but some of them have been interrupted by later additions (houses 3, 5, and 8). Virtually all of the larger windows are six-over-six sash. None of the houses have front porches, but all have concrete or concrete-and-brick front steps with steel hand rails. Each main block has at least one one-story appendage. The side porches are likely original to the houses, but all have been screened-in, fully enclosed with glazing, or substantially reconstructed as sunrooms.

House No. 1 stands next to Locust Avenue, on the south side of the U-shaped arrangement of houses. It has a one-story gable-roofed addition (the only gable-roofed side addition in Wiley Court) on the east end, and one-story hip-roofed porch across the rear (south) elevation that wraps around to the east elevation. The chimney is on the east elevation. There is a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white, in the backyard.

House No. 2 is on the south side of the U-shaped arrangement of houses. It has one of the more obtrusive additions of the Wiley Court houses, a one-story frame structure that extends across the rear and beyond the end of the original house, with an awkward-looking raised shed roof. The house also has a one-story shed on the east, chimney-side elevation, set back about two feet from the main front wall plane, and a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white.

House No. 3, built facing due north, is the southernmost of the eight houses. It has an unobtrusive one-story shed-roofed screened-in porch on the east (side) elevation, and a full two-story gable-roofed brick rear ell with a shed addition along its west elevation and rear entry porch. The chimney is on the east side of the main block. Behind the house is a white-picket-fenced backyard and one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white.

House No. 4, built facing east-northeast, has a two-story brick rear ell and an unobtrusive one-story shed-roofed enclosed porch on the south (side) elevation. The chimney is also on the south side. Behind the house is a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white. House No. 4 and House No. 5 are the westernmost houses and occupy the two largest parcels.

House No. 5, one of the best preserved and maintained houses, faces east toward the courtyard and Locust Avenue. It has a full two-story rear ell constructed of brick with a semi-exterior end chimney, and an unobtrusive one-story shed-roofed screened-in porch on the north (side) elevation. At a corner of the backyard is a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white. Within the fenced backyard is a boxwood circle with central bird bath. Houses 5-8 have their chimneys and one-story shed-roofed additions on the east (side) elevation.

House No. 6 is on the north side of the U-shaped arrangement of houses. It has a one-story shed-roofed screened-in porch on the east side; a one-story shed-roofed addition along north (rear) elevation; and a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white, in the backyard.

House No. 7 is on the north side of the U-shaped arrangement of houses. It has a one-story shed addition along the east (side) elevation and a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white, in the backyard. The only rear extension is a small shed-roofed entry porch near the west corner. Behind the house is a 1 ½-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white.

House No. 8 stands next to Locust Avenue, on the north side of the U-shaped arrangement of houses. It has a full two-story, multi-room rear ell, and the east-side one-story shed addition has deep eaves and extends the length of building including the ell. In the backyard is a one-story front-gabled frame garage clad with weatherboards, painted white, and appears to have a basement within the hillside-embanked concrete-block foundation.

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the proposed district. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Please list all sources of information. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

As a group of eight houses built together around a semi-circular courtyard, Wiley Court is notable for its plan, intended to attract and enhance the quality of life of its residents—primarily young families initially—as well as the relatively sophisticated Colonial Revival architecture of its houses. It appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Architecture, respectively. The court retains its original layout, houses, dependencies, and open courtyard at the center. Current and former residents have provided oral testimony as to the quality of life promoted by the design and layout of the eight houses and the green, shady and welcoming communal courtyard; a concept that stands in contrast to the vast majority of contemporary and later neighborhood plans in which communal aspects were largely overlooked.

The following paragraph is excerpted from "Langhorne Place Is 70 - Wiley Court Was Built for Younger Families" in *A Guide to Historic Salem*, Volume 3, Number 2 – Summer, 1997:

"Wiley Court -- eight little houses considered one of the real charms of Langhorne Place -- came in 1936. It was built on unused land reserved for an athletic field, to meet a need for homes for young families. Mrs. Wiley was responsible for the design and layout -- "eight little Cape Cods" arranged on a curve like a fan. The eight were [all similar]: staircase just inside the front door, living room on one side, dining room on other, kitchen and a powder room to the rear. Upstairs were two bedrooms, bath and a small room "for baby." All had back yards and side porches. The porches were on the left side for the homes on the left side of the fan, on the right for the other side. All were rented, and Wiley maintained the property. The central two homes, numbered 4 and 5, had the largest back yards and became slightly more desirable...Beginning in 1947, the "eight little Cape Cods" of Wiley Court were sold individually. Young families bought them, and the court became even closer knit. Mothers had the same rules for the children: "Don't go to Main Street!" "Don't go to the pool alone." Most families added rooms. The new homeowners began caring about things like property lines, hedges and landscaping. Among the young families of Wiley Court was Anne Taylor Wiley Nimmo and her husband, Jim Nimmo, affectionately known as "Nimmo" and their daughter, Anne Langhorne. They lived there until 1958, when they moved into the home she now occupies at 249 Taylor Avenue."

Note: City real estate records show house No. 8 was built in 1934, all of the others in 1935.

Sponsor (Individual and/or organization, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. ☒ Ms. ☐ Alex Ferrate
(Name)
PO Box 1701 Salem VA 24153
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)
info@alexferrate.com 202-422-7777
(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: n/a

Daytime Telephone: ()

Applicant Information (Individual completing form)

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐
Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ Mike Pulice DHR
(Name) (Firm)
Western Regional Office Salem VA 24153
(Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)
michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov 540-387-5443
(Email Address) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: December 15, 2014

Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ Kevin Boggess City Manager
(Name) (Position)
City of Salem 114 N. Broad St.
(Locality) (Address)
Salem VA 24153 540-375-3017
(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this district.

To foster awareness and recognition of the district's architectural and historical significance, and promote its long-term preservation.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☐ No ☒

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☒